

"Hard times! hard times!" said a young man to his companion as they were walking Pennsylvania avenue towards the Capitol a few days since. "My father used to say, that industry, perseverance and economy, in connection with a good trade, were any young man's passport to fortune, respectability and happiness. It should be so—but, no it is not. Here am I, with a good trade, and I think I may lay claim to the three virtues connected therewith by the old man, for I have left no opportunity unimproved, have diligently sought for, but cannot obtain, employment, without which a good trade is, I take it, a useless qualification. Is it not so, my friend?"

"How long have you been idle?"

"Nearly three months."

"When you were employed, how long did the work last?"

"I had constant employment for a year."

"I suppose you practised the virtues, industry and economy, during that period?"

"I did. I laid by three hundred dollars clear of my expenses."

"That was well."

"I have two hundred and fifty left, and it troubles me exceedingly that they are disappearing without a hope of my being able to earn more."

"Without a hope, did you say?—then you are wretched, indeed?"

"No, no! not that exactly! I should have said *present* hope."

"Ah! that alters the case. Well, young man, I cannot perceive that you have much cause for discontent. You have a sum of money abundantly sufficient, with prudence and economy, to support you a year, even though you should not (which is highly improbable) obtain employment during that period. Meantime, you can put into active exercise the virtues, industry and perseverance."

"How so, when I have nothing to do?"

"Nothing to do, sir; that doing nothing is an impossible thing. Were it possible for man to do nothing—*pooh!*—he can't do nothing—there's no such thing as nothing. Man must do one of two things, *good* or *evil*; nay, he cannot abstain from doing good without the commission of evil, hence it is idleness is said to be the parent of mischief, that is, the ceasing to do well—When you are improving your mind by study, the reading of useful books, studying the book of nature in your recreative walks, reflecting upon the grandeur, the goodness, the wisdom and power of that Being who willed the existence of this beautiful world and created man for its enjoyment—you are doing something. When you devote your time and attention to the pursuit of folly, squander it away in gambling, riot, dissipation, and unprofitable lewd conversations, you are doing something, good or evil."

"True, in a moral sense."

"Why, it is this moral sense that constitutes the difference between man and the brute creation—the knowledge of right and wrong. Were it not so, the jackass would have the advantage—for in things purely physical—brute force, power of endurance—his hind leg is superior to man's right arm."

"I begin to understand you. I confess that I have heretofore narrowed down the application of these things to mere physical employments, never dreaming of their applicability to the mind. My father was a wiser man than his son."

"But not wiser than his son *may* be, if he pursues the course marked out for him by his father. He has the benefit of his father's wisdom; let him profit by his experience, and my word for it, he will become not only a wiser, but a *better*, man than—he is at present."

"Good. It is worth the effort."

"I am acquainted with a man, a fellow craftsman of yours, who, whenever he was afflicted with despondency, which sometimes happened, for he had a family and was frequently for months out of work, would pay a visit to the Alms House at Blochly, where he found many so much worse off than himself that it invariably cheered him; 'for,' said he, 'I had health, and strength, and hope, whereas these a man need never despair.' I would advise you to pursue a similar course."

"Thank you."

"Well, it did him good, why may it not benefit you? What is good for the goose is good for the gander."

"I am infinitely obliged to you."

"You are welcome. Now I think of it, come to my house. I have no doubt I can do you good. I have some manuscripts which I wish arranged for the press, entitled 'Incidents of the Revolution.' You can assist me, and at the same time learn something about hard times, 'times that tried men's souls.'"

"I will be delighted to do so."

"Come, then, to-night and we will arrange some plan of action in the premises which may be agreeable to yourself and acceptable to me. Meantime, I will inform you that there are men in this capital, in comparison with whom your condition is positive affluence. Men who have families, six or eight children to clothe and feed, and who, to my certain knowledge, have not had employment for six months past. Compare their situations with your own and then talk about hard times. 'One half the world know not how the other half live.' Amid all our privations and difficulties, we have liberty, for which blessing let us be thankful to Heaven, and our brave forefathers who fought and died that we, their children, might inherit and enjoy the invaluable blessing, the want of which they felt, and we, I fear, do not sufficiently appreciate. Remember 8 o'clock at my room."

"Well, my young friend, I am pleased to see you. Walk in and take a seat on the floor, unless you prefer a chair—here's one at your service. I hope you have recovered from your fit of the blues."

"I am as well as could be expected, as the doctors say."

"Good. Now I propose that you shall devote two hours each evening (having nothing better to employ your time) to unravelling the contents of yonder bundle of MSS. You'll find something among them to stir your blood, or am mistaken. What say you?"

"Agreed. I will commence at once."

"I am going out. Should you get tired before I return, place the MSS. in that box with the hamp, lock it and put the key in your pocket. I wish you a pleasant evening."

"Well, I'll be switched! He's off, and I am left, a forlorn hope, to attack this formidable looking pile of manuscripts—Faugh! how musty they smell! What's this?—Battle of Trenton—1776—1777: Incidents—Individual bravery—Fierce encounter, &c., &c."

Our young friend seated himself cosily by the fire, placed his feet gently upon the fender, arranged a tall spermaceti on either side in such a position as to throw their light upon the MSS., threw himself back in his chair and was soon lost to everything but the subject-matter of the papers before him. It is our design to give to the public such portions of these manuscripts as have never appeared in print. It is strange, but not less true than strange, that these transactions should, for so long a period, have escaped the notice of historians. It is still more singular that the event which immediately preceded their enactment, should not have become, as it certainly is, (as much so as the battle of the 25th December, 1776,) part of the history of the struggle for American Independence. That it has not been mentioned by English writers, is not so much to be wondered at, inasmuch as its result was, to their aims disastrous and bloody. The omission on our own parts, may, perhaps, be accounted for, by the hurry and bustle of the masterly retreat which it became necessary for our army to make from a force rendered so superior by reinforcements, that to hazard another battle, would have resulted in almost certain defeat. But we must not anticipate.

The British, hitherto victorious in every field, boasting and vainglorious, flushed with success, and all the "pomp and circumstance of glorious war" began to fancy that they had nothing to do but to march on, conquering and to conquer—driving the rebels before them, until, disheartened by repeated defeats, they would lay down their arms and quietly submit to what appeared to be their manifest destiny. The battle of Trenton, 1776, opened their eyes to the fact that the Defenders of Liberty, though beaten off, did not intend to stay beaten, and that George Washington, the leader of this forlorn hope, placed his trust in a higher power than that of King George—a power that grasped events, and swayed, with a breath, the destinies of nations—nothing doubting that He would, eventually, enable his suffering countrymen to conquer their enemies, and banish them from a country destined to become the home of the oppressed of every nation—a nation of freemen—haters of tyranny—cultivators of the arts of peace—an example to the world of successful defiance of oppression, and of firm reliance on that power which never fails a people who place their trust in Him.

After the defeat of the Hessians at Trenton, Washington marched his army into Pennsylvania, where, having secured his prisoners and refreshed his men, he again crossed the Delaware and made his headquarters at Trenton. Determined to avail himself of the ardor with which his late victory had inspired his men, he prepared to strike another blow at the enemy. Learning that Cornwallis was concentrating his force at Princeton and preparing for battle, he crossed the Assanpink Creek, (which formerly divided Hunterdon and Burlington counties, and is now the dividing line between north and south Trenton,) erected his batteries on its southern bank, commanding the approaches to the bridge, and quietly awaited the enemy.

On the morning of the 2d January, 1777, the British entered Trenton, and immediate preparations were made to force the American position, drive them into the open country beyond, and force them to fight on unequal terms. But Washington was wide awake. He knew he could defend his position against any force Cornwallis could bring against him that day, and he designed to intercept the reinforcements which he doubted not would march to his enemy's aid early the following morning.

Foiled in their attempts to ford the Creek (which was much swollen) and gain the rear of the American position, Cornwallis determined to carry the works by storm, and accordingly changed his plan of attack—Forming his men in solid column, and placing some Hessian troops in front, he gave the word to advance.

Meantime, Washington, confident in the bravery of his troops and the advantage of his position, calmly awaited their approach. His mind was made up. He knew that they would be protected from the fire of his main battery until they had advanced along Green street to the intersection of (what is now) Market street, where they would wheel to the right and commence their charge.

On they came—silently and slow, without beat of drum. Save the sound of their march, produced by the tramp of so large a

body of men, there was no indication of the coming strife. How beautiful they looked. With what precision they marched square up to the very centre of the street which brought them within play of the American batteries. Then the eye of Washington lighted up with the fire of battle—"Let them have it," he shouted. The concussion of the discharge which followed, made the earth tremble—the blood started from the ears of the men at the guns—again and again the fearful shock bursts upon the ear—roars succeeds roar with electric rapidity. Now the enemy's batteries open, to protect the charge of their column. Vain effort. The living mass that a few moments since emerged into that open space is swept away. Not a man is left standing where thousands stood so lately—the ground is covered with dead, dying, struggling, tortured, mutilated bodies. They lie in heaps. Legs, heads, arms, torn from their bleeding trunks, are strewn around. Five hundred men sleep the sleep of death. Hark! the trumpet sounds—the British lion again advances—Britons in front. They pant for revenge—pell-mell they rush to the attack—over the dead and dying—through heaps of their slaughtered comrades they push their way. Maddened by defeat, they shriek in the excitement of anticipated victory. Brave hearts! dragged from your homes and families to fight the battles of a tyrant king, and rivet your own chains about the necks of freemen—you strive in vain. The eye of Washington, the guardian of America's freedom, is upon you. He is about to utter the command which will let loose among you a thousand missiles of destruction—each one a death—

"Let them have it, boys."

Once more the iron hail sweeps thro' the column—like grass before the scythe, they fall—they stagger on—a little nearer—they reach the bridge—their feet rest upon the first plank. Immediately in their front is seen the tall form of Washington—he waves his sword—a detachment of troops drawn up a few yards from the opposite end of the bridge, divide right and left, and from their midst is poured upon them a storm of grape and cannonball that scatters them like chaff. Again they fly in irremediable confusion.

Three times was the charge renewed and as often were they driven back with terrible slaughter. Cornwallis concluded to await the coming of reinforcements and renew the battle next day. The first thing he heard on the morning of that next day was the report of Washington's cannon at Princeton, where brave Mercer fell—a dear bought victory.

Of this terrible fight, history gives no other account than that a cannonading occurred between the two armies. A cannonade it was, but it struck more terror to the hearts of the invaders than did the battle which preceded it. It effectually cured them of their contempt for the Yankees. They never afterwards heard the tune of Yankee Doodle, that they did not pay voluntary tribute to the bravery and heroism of the men in derision of whom it was composed! Indeed, it turned the joke upon Cornwallis, for after this event it was that he styled Cornwallis, because Gen. Washington had shelled all the corn off of him.

For the National Whig.

THE NEW YEAR—1849.

Revolving seasons still continue to sweep the changeful earth, as revolving ages sweep the laboring mountains away. Man is also continually swept away. New men rise; old men pass away. The earth abideth forever. The same stream flows on, yet the same water constitutes it, not although it retains its appearance and its name; so with man, his nature is the same, each individual identity is a drop of the eternal spirit of animation, and cannot be lost by revolving changes. The soul is immortal as its fountain; all beyond this view depends upon promise—the promise of a God, incomprehensible, yet full of hope; its culture is an insurance of happiness here and hereafter. Strange that man's freedom of his will should lead him to destroy his own soul! Strange that man's free will should lead him to destroy his own soul! Strange that man's free will should lead him to destroy his own soul!

How is it with the family now? How will it be towards the next Head of the House, and among all the members? Obedience to a single command will bring back to 1849 the spirit of the impulses of 1789. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which none can see God." This is the only basis upon which Governments can stand.

Peace is love, the eternal principle of the government of the Great Jehovah, which man may imitate, but which he can never change or overthrow. A prayer that this principle may be ingrained in every heart, as the new commandment of Jesus Christ, "ye love one another," is the right offering of all, coupled to the wishes of a "A happy New Year by 'THE OLD MAN OF THE HILLS.'"

BALTIMORE, December 31st, 1848.

VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT ELECT TO PENNSYLVANIA.

It will be seen by the following letter from the President elect, that the proposed visit to East Pennsylvania, after his inauguration.

DEAR SIR—I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of Nov. 23d, which you addressed to me in behalf of the Whigs of Lancaster county, Pa., and conveying their warm congratulations to me at the result of the past election, and their anxious desire that I would visit Lancaster on my way to Washington City.

I would afford me the highest pleasure to comply with your invitation, were it possible to do so; but I regret to say that I shall be so long delayed in the discharge of my official duties, that I shall not have time to leave for Lancaster until the 4th of March next. I have indicated to Gov. Johnston, from public duties, endeavor to visit Lancaster also. I propose at the same time to visit Lancaster, also. I am assured that I value highly this mark of respect from the citizens of your county, and their attachment to right and patriotic principles. Please accept for them at this time my sincere thanks. I hope at no distant day to express my sense of their good will and regard in person.

I am, sir, with much respect and regard,

Your most obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR.

Some of our contemporaries suppose the administration intend, by extensive appointments to the office of their terms, to forestall General Taylor in the distribution of his official patronage. Should this be attempted, they will find that Old Z. is not to be headed in this way. —*Miner's Journal*, Dec. 13.

At a year ago, we published the prospectus of the "Old Man of the Hills." We republish it to-day, with his explanatory remarks. More of it hereafter.

CHOLERA IN NEW ORLEANS.

The telegraphic accounts from this city tell us that the cholera was spreading with alarming rapidity. Had the authorities of that city done their duty in cleansing the streets, houses, &c., this havoc would not have been so record. We earnestly appeal to our own Councils to be up and doing. There is time to be lost.

HINTS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

In view of the approach of the cholera, you may do much to hinder its ravages, if you will at once take measures to have your premises thoroughly cleansed, and to keep them so. A few cents expended now in removing the filth more or less in and about every house in the city, will save the expenditure of many dollars, when the disease comes, and perhaps the means of saving many valuable lives. As to the best means of keeping your premises clean, they are obvious. Do not allow yourselves to throw the garbage into the alleys, but provide water-tight barrels (tubs with handles are best, because they can be easily removed, for the reception of the household refuse, and cause them to be emptied by the use of a scavenger. Again, every housekeeper should procure Ledyard's disinfecting fluid and use it freely about their dwellings. It is supreme in arresting atmospheric or gaseous causes of disease. We advise all our druggists to keep it on sale. It is manufactured in New York. When these things are done, houses should be well ventilated every day, and the utmost cleanliness be maintained by the use of water. These hints will suggest others of equal value. Our sole object is to rouse public attention to the danger that awaits the city, unless preventive steps are forthwith taken. There is no need of alarm or fear—but there is, for cleanliness of houses, streets, lanes and alleys.

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DAILY NATIONAL WHIG.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MONDAY MORNING, JANUARY 1, 1849.

THE NEW CABINET.

Extract of a letter from Baton Rouge, under date December 16th, 1848.

"Be assured, that the President Elect will select such distinguished statesmen for the heads of departments, as the whole nation will approve of. They will be gentlemen of the highest moral and political integrity, of acknowledged habits of personal industry and sobriety, of ripe experience in public affairs and great facility in the execution of business, of moderate but firm and decided counsels in all things, and of enlarged and comprehensive views upon all public questions. They will be men, who will possess in an eminent degree the confidence of the great interests of the confederacy, and with whom, the preservation of the Union will be the paramount object of all their labors."

"Great curiosity is naturally felt throughout the country to know, who will be the fortunate individuals whom the Old Hero will invite to assist him in the administration of the Government, but, I think, it is not destined to be gratified until the Senate shall have advised and consented to the nominations."

MOVEMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT ELECT.

We learn, by letters from Louisiana, that Gen. Taylor will probably not leave his residence for the Capital until the 1st of February. His departure will be regulated, however, by the condition of the navigation of the upper rivers, as he purposes to pass through Nashville.

We also learn, from the same sources, that he had determined to make Coleman's Hotel his headquarters, from the time of his arrival in this city until he should remove to the President's House, that Mrs. Gen. Taylor will not encounter the travel across the mountains this winter, and that he will be accompanied to Washington only by Colonel Bliss and his lady.

This being New Year's day, no paper will be issued from this office until Wednesday morning.

Subscribers who do not get their papers, will please leave word at the office.

We are indebted to the *New York Herald* for the valuable table showing the members of the 31st Congress.

Our Congressional Directory will appear on Wednesday morning corrected up to that date.

We send our paper to-day to the members of both Houses of Congress, with the compliments of the season and our best wishes for their health and prosperity.

CONGRESS.

Neither House sits to-day. To-morrow, at the usual hour, each House will assemble.

OPEN HOUSE TO-DAY.

To-day, at noon, the President's House will be open for the reception of all visitors who may be pleased to call upon the Chief Magistrate in respect to him. We learn also, that the Secretaries will throw open their dwellings to-day, and will be glad to exchange the compliments of the season with their fellow citizens. Many of our citizens will likewise share in this commendable custom. To all who may chance to read these lines, we have only to say: A happy new-year, and may all your fondest hopes and desires be gratified!

REDUCED POSTAGE.

Mr. Niles' Bill for the reduction of postage proposes three cents for all distances on letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight. We hope Congress will amend the law by reducing it to two cents at once, and make preparation in all cases necessary. In respect to the transmission of newspapers, it would be desirable if prepayment of half a cent for all distances be enforced upon them, whether they be lodged in the post office by the publishers or others. In the first case, subscribers would have to pay the postage as well as the price of their papers to the publisher in advance.

ELECTION IN MASSACHUSETTS.

To-day an election for four members to the next Congress will take place. At the last trial there was no choice, in consequence of the law requiring the successful candidate to have an absolute majority of the votes thrown. The candidates in the field are:

Whig. Democrat. Anti-Slavery.

D. P. King. E. Russell. B. F. Newhall.

B. Thompson. F. Robinson. J. G. Peabody.

C. Hudson. J. Davis. C. Allen.

O. Fowler. H. Hooper. N. Morton.

PRESIDENTIAL WESTERN RIVERS.

Last accounts tell us of a destructive freshet in the Ohio, and all the other rivers of that valley. The amount of property destroyed is almost equal to that of the freshet of 1832.

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In view of the approach of the cholera, you may do much to hinder its ravages, if you will at once take measures to have your premises thoroughly cleansed, and to keep them so. A few cents expended now in removing the filth more or less in and about every house in the city, will save the expenditure of many dollars, when the disease comes, and perhaps the means of saving many valuable lives. As to the best means of keeping your premises clean, they are obvious. Do not allow yourselves to throw the garbage into the alleys, but provide water-tight barrels (tubs with handles are best, because they can be easily removed, for the reception of the household refuse, and cause them to be emptied by the use of a scavenger. Again, every housekeeper should procure Ledyard's disinfecting fluid and use it freely about their dwellings. It is supreme in arresting atmospheric or gaseous causes of disease. We advise all our druggists to keep it on sale. It is manufactured in New York. When these things are done, houses should be well ventilated every day, and the utmost cleanliness be maintained by the use of water. These hints will suggest others of equal value. Our sole object is to rouse public attention to the danger that awaits the city, unless preventive steps are forthwith taken. There is no need of alarm or fear—but there is, for cleanliness of houses, streets, lanes and alleys.

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